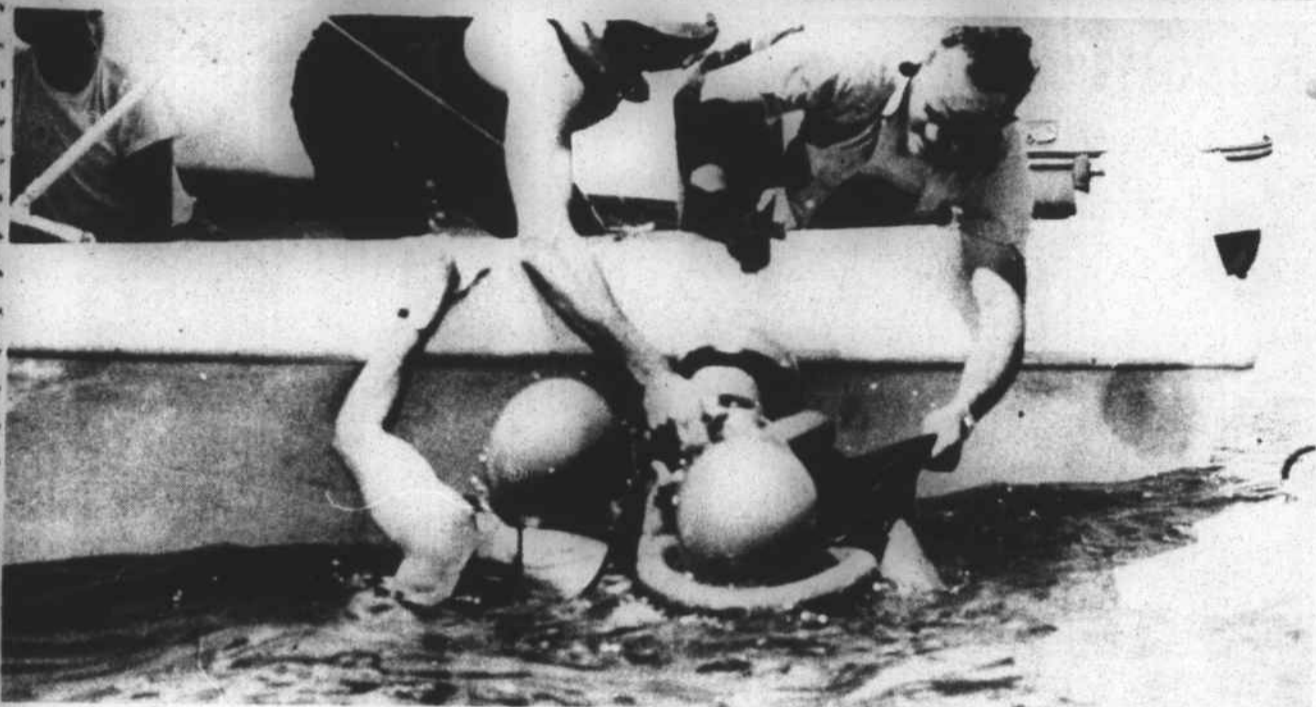


# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress

12  
PAGES  
15¢ Per Copy  
2 SECTIONS

Volume 79 - Number 48 - Murphy, North Carolina, 28906 - Second Class Postage Paid at Murphy, N. C. - Thursday, July 15, 1971



## Boat Race Accident

Boat racers, in top picture, stopped their boats during Sunday's Elmer Taylor Memorial Marathon on Lake Hiwassee to help a fellow driver who was injured when his twin-engined boat flipped at high speed. In bottom picture the unconscious driver, Jimmy Dudley of Phoenix City, Ala., is lifted by Steve Dockery of Murphy and the racers into a

pickup boat. He suffered a mild concussion in the accident and was released Monday from Providence Hospital. Donald Bateman of Augusta, Ga., driving a boat powered by a single Mercury engine, outran the pack and was the overall race winner. (Bill Dyer Photos)

## Town OK's Budget, Talks Land

The Murphy Town Council Monday night adopted the town budget for 1971-72 and discussed its dealings in real estate.

The budget, presented in tentative form several weeks back, calls for the town spending \$318,897 during the fiscal year, an increase from last year's \$280,000.

The tax rate, however, will remain the same as last year, \$1.85 per \$100 of valuation and water and sewer charges will not be changed, Town Clerk Charlie Johnson said.

The budget contains pay raises for nearly all town employes of about 5 per cent, \$12,000 to be spent on the town sewage plant to add drying beds, an additional expense of \$6,000 for the landfill, \$2,800 on the new town street sweeper and \$3,000 for a new police car.

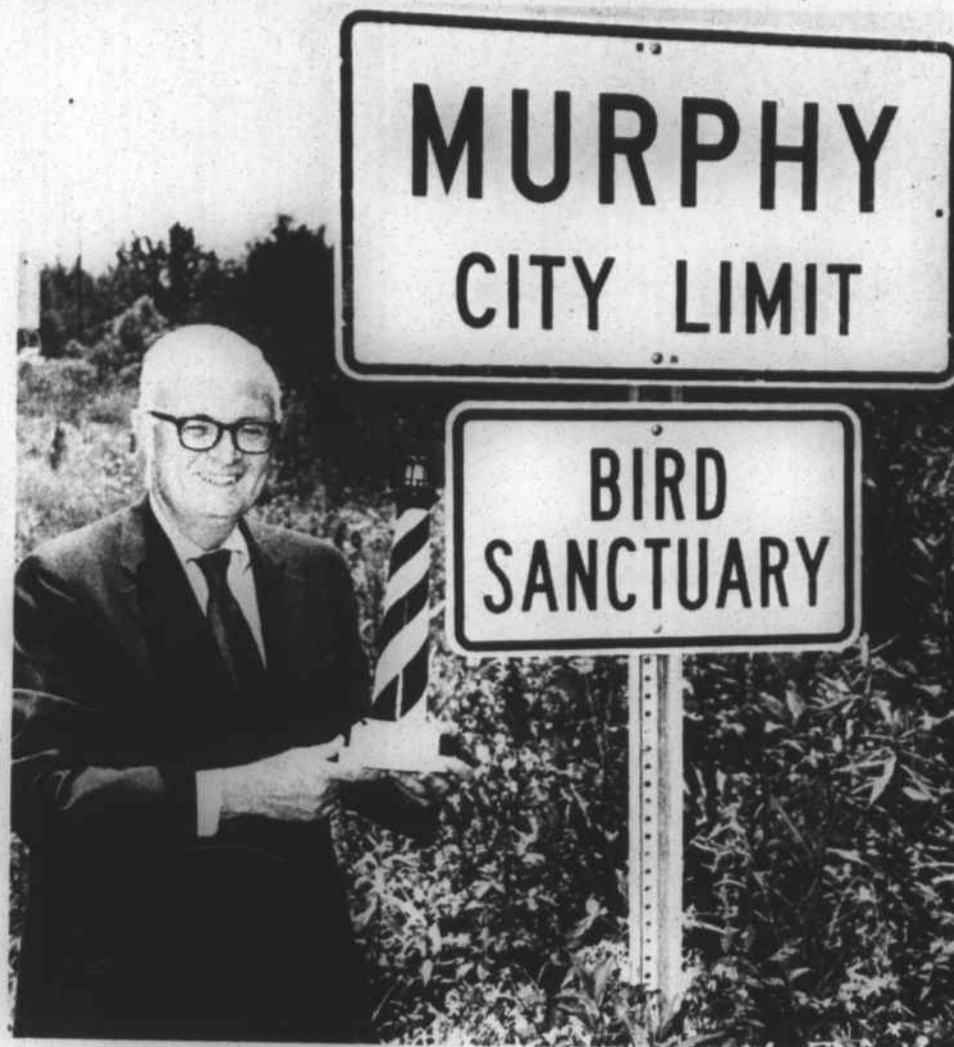
At the meeting, it was announced that the town has exercised an option it held and purchased for \$16,000 the C.L. Alverson property, formerly the Everett English lot, located on Blumenthal Street behind the present Town Hall.

Containing 1.35 acres, it was purchased to serve as a site for a proposed new library building which would house both the town's Murphy Carnegie Library and the Nantahala Regional Library. The library board has been authorized to make plans for the new building and inquire about federal grants which might be available for such a project.

The town now owns the Power Board Building and some property adjacent to it, the library building and land plus a downtown parking lot in addition to the Alverson lot.

Council members Monday night decided that some other land the town owns, a lot on Cherokee Street and 13 acres on the Andrews Highway, should be declared surplus and sold. The lot on Cherokee Street is across the street from the Gulf bulk plant and the land on the Andrews Highway is located near Harper's Store in the Regal section.

Johnson was instructed to talk with potential buyers and see how much the land might be worth. Paul Ridenhour, who lives next to the Alverson lot, appeared and asked that he be sold a triangular strip of the new town property to square up his lot. There was much discussion of the property line involved but no action was taken as council members preferred to check with a surveyor on the matter before selling any of the land.



## From Manteo To Murphy

Hugh Morton, testing local feelings toward his possible campaign for the North Carolina governorship, came to Murphy on Tuesday by helicopter. He had been in

the other end of the state at Manteo Monday and brought with him a lamp, which is a model of the famed Cape Hatteras lighthouse. (Gray Photo)

## Morton Samples Cherokee Support

Hugh Morton came to Murphy Tuesday afternoon, to meet with local Democratic leaders on the possibility of his running for governor of North Carolina.

Morton, who owns the tourist attraction Grandfather Mountain and ramrodded the USS North Carolina battleship memorial project of recent years, has said he is interested in running for governor. His decision will be based on the results of a professional poll under way in the state on his possible candidacy and his personal visits to leaders in the 100 counties.

Coming here from Franklin

by helicopter, Morton landed near the Murphy High football field and had a 1 p.m. luncheon at O'Dell's Restaurant with about 25 local officials and Democratic leaders from Murphy, Andrews and the county.

Morton said his friends have been pushing him to make the race but added "I don't want to be licked." He mentioned Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor, Attorney General Bob Morgan and Senator Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles as potential Democratic candidates, each having a political machine to back him. Morton said he had no such machine and would have to depend on his friends across the state for support. A native of Wilmington, he lives at Linville and indicated he thought he could bridge the traditional East-West gap in Tarheel politics.

He asked those attending the luncheon how the next governor might best serve them and their prime concern proved to be the planned new four-lane highway between Murphy and Andrews.

Murphy attorney Hobart McKeever said local leaders have been unable to find out the construction status of the proposed new road and Andrews Mayor Ty Burnette said in his town uncertainty about the location of the road is affecting new construction.

## Wife Charged In Stabbing Of Husband

Mrs. Luellen Pearson of the Ramsey Hollow section of Murphy has been charged with murder in the knife slaying of her husband Russell last week.

Police Chief Pete Stalcup said Mrs. Pearson's bond has been set at \$5,000 and as of Wednesday morning, she was still in the Cherokee County Jail.

Earnest (Boney) Dockery, who was held along with Mrs. Pearson by officers for questioning, was released after officers verified his statement that he left the Pearson residence early Tuesday afternoon of last week.

Chief Stalcup said Dockery, one of the last persons to see Russell Pearson alive, will probably be called as a material witness in the trial.

Pearson was found lying dead in a driveway near his house last week on Tuesday night about 9 o'clock, a stab wound in his chest above the heart.

Officers quoted a pathologist who examined the body as saying the knife that killed Pearson, which so far has not been located, severed two major blood vessels and death came almost instantly.



## U. S. Forest Service Sets Public Meeting

On Wednesday night of next week, at 7:30 in the Murphy Power Board Building, the U. S. Forest Service will hold a public meeting at which there will be a "tell it like it is" session.

According to District Ranger Harold Fisher, everyone is invited and during the meeting members of the general public may comment on or criticize present Forest Service policies or suggest changes in policy.

Fisher said the Forest Service's controversial fee system for campers and picnickers will be discussed as will the closings of forest roads and the use of trails by motorcycles. Timber management and litter are also topics which probably will be aired, he added.

"The Forest Service is charged with managing the National Forest lands for the greatest good, for the greatest number of people in the long run," Fisher said. "We need the public's recommendations."

## Housing Projects Up For Bids . . . Again

Murphy's public housing projects, which have been plagued by soaring construction



Sgt. Richard Ledford  
Sgt. Ledford  
Injured In  
Asian War

Word has been received in Clay County of the wounding in Vietnam of Sgt. Richard Ledford, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Ledford of Hayesville.

Sgt. Ledford was wounded on July 7, suffering multiple wounds of one leg and both arms, injuries to his face and temporary loss of vision in one eye. He is recovering now in the hospital at Da Nang, scheduled to be returned to the United States for treatment soon.

A veteran of six years' service in the U.S. Army, Sgt. Ledford is on his third hitch in Vietnam. He is assigned to the Americal Division.

costs, are going up for bids for the fourth time.

Ben Palmer, executive director of the Murphy Housing Authority, said plans for the two projects have been changed to make for cheaper construction and the jobs will be going up for bids in late August.

Planned are 10 housing units for the elderly on Hiwassee Street and 30 low-income family units on Park Avenue, near the Rimco Plant.

## Property Tax Law Changed

The Legislature has modernized the property tax law of North Carolina - doing away with the poll tax for good, dropping discounts for prepayments if local governments so desire and hiking interest rates on delinquent taxes.

Mrs. Ruth Sprung, Cherokee County Accountant, explained the changes in the act this week. It was ratified on July 9 and affects both counties and towns, she said.

The poll tax will end this year, she said, and in 1972 there simply will be no poll tax on the property owner's tax bill.

Interest at the rate of 3/4 of a percent, instead of the old 1/2 of a percent will be added to all delinquent taxes when they are collected in the future. She said this begins now and beginning next year, the added interest rate will be 2 percent in January and 3/4 of a percent each month thereafter.

Discounts for those who pay their taxes early are no longer required, she explained, but both the Cherokee County Commissioners and the Murphy councilmen have voted to keep current discounts in effect for those who pay their 1971 taxes before the first of November.

The housing authority is to build the projects with money from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development but so far HUD officials have turned down all bids as too high.

"We found out that we're in their Asheville division," Palmer said. "And our costs here will have to be in line with construction costs per square foot in Asheville. If we were being compared to Chattanooga costs, the bids we already have would be all right."

The HUD planners turned down the first bids in July of last year at a total of \$699,069 as too high. The job was bid on again last September and the total bid rose to \$729,419 so HUD let it stand until this Spring.

In mid-April, it was bid on again and the total was \$682,600. At that time, it appeared that HUD had approved the job but a work-stop order was issued by the federal officials in Atlanta just before the construction began.

Palmer said the number of units has not been changed, nor the floorspace. Cost-saving has been done, he said, by eliminating closet doors and replacing them with drapes in the plans, doing away with planned skylights, changing from metal door-frames to wood and from wooden stairways to concrete.

## Four Square Meeting Set

The monthly meeting of the board of directors of Four Square Community Action Inc. will be held at the Andrews Community Center next Monday night at 7:30. All board members and interested persons invited to attend.

## Cable TV Contacts Customers

Murphy Cable Television, Inc. will begin taking applications this week for cable TV service in and around the town.

Harold Shook, president of the corporation, said the TV cable, similar to telephone line, will be installed soon, starting in about 30 days. Construction of a tower on Fain Mountain, which will receive the television signals for the entire system, will take about 60-90 days he said and should begin in the near future.

Shook said Jerry Anderson will be the local serviceman for the system and will be circulating the applications.

Shook was given the cable TV franchise for the Murphy area last January by the Murphy Town Council. The council has stipulated that no local programming will be allowed, due to the high insurance rates which would be required to protect against possible libel suits which might result from a local broadcast.

Shook said a test survey made recently on Fain Mountain by an Asheville engineering firm brought in the signal from the education station at Athens, Ga. and 12 other commercial channels, from Atlanta, Spartanburg, Chattanooga, Greenville, S.C. and Asheville.

He said subscribers, who will pay a monthly rate for the service, will probably be furnished less than the 13 channels available since "some of them are duplicates." There would be little reason, he pointed out, to carry four or five channels of the same network affiliation.

In addition to television, Shook said the cable TV operation will offer a broad band of FM radio stations, subscribers hearing the FM stations either through their TV sets or radios connected to the cable.



## New Deputies

Cherokee County Sheriff Blain Stalcup (Democrat) asked the Cherokee commissioners (Republican) for two additional deputies several months ago and was turned down. He then sent his request to the Legislature (Democrat) where it was approved, giving the sheriff's office four fulltime deputies now.

Standing is Gerald Breedlove, 21, of Marble, a former Andrews policeman. Seated is Kenneth Higgins, 32, of Peachtree, who is a former Murphy policeman and also has worked as a prison guard and a deputy sheriff in Haywood County. (Avett Photo)